

MONTANA D.E.S. ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

As we face a new year of challenges together, I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation to each of you for your help and the support you provided in 1985. Your continued support will be needed in 1986 to meet the challenges as they come down the pike.

As you all know, 1985 was very rewarding in many aspects, but was somewhat disappointing in others. However, I cannot help but feel that the good over shadowed the bad.

We began in January 1985, with a threat --- Congress was cutting the FY86 Emergency/Civil Defense Budget to \$119 million, a far cry from the \$152 million requested. Yet, we rallied to the cause. Through a united effort by response organizations, and others, we were able to show the legislators that the internal safety of the United States depends upon emergency management. Our FY86 budget was restored to \$148 million.

Tragedy struck in Bhopal, India and Mexico City, Mexico. Suddenly it was realized that those events could have happened within the boundaries of the United States. As a direct result, the EPA Air Toxic Strategy came into being and a renewed emphasis has been placed on earthquake planning.

On our own front, we were able to reimburse the locals 100% on salaries, benefits and travel for FY85. The State Emergency Operations Center became a reality and you all have a standing invitation to drop in and visit us whenever possible. We are very proud of it.

We are now looking to the future and concentrating on training and services for the local agencies. We hope to strengthen our programs and become stronger in emergency management in the future. Thank you all for your support.

- George M. DeWolf -

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>PERSON TO CONTACT</u>
February 3-7	Earthquake Awareness Week - Butte/Silver Bow	Wilma Puich
5	Flathead Lake DES meets with Canadian Customs Officials	Kim Potter
12	Teleconference - Public Education	Dan Lieberg
17	President's Day - Holiday	
18	MDES Coordinators Association Meeting-Fairmont	Helen Elliott
19-20	Governor's Conference - Fairmont Hot Springs	Chris Christensen
March 1	Open House - State Emergency Operations Center Helena, Montana	George DeWolf
1-30	Radiological Instrument Exchange - Broadwater Gallatin, Meagher Counties	Dan Lieberg
3	National Weather Service/Amateur Radio Assn. Joint Exercise - Statewide	Joe Johnston 453-2081
10-14	Intro. to Emergency Management Course-Bozeman	Kate Selby
12	Teleconference - Residential Sprinklers	Dan Lieberg
13	District 4 - MDES Meeting - Broadus	Norm Parrent
April 6-9	NEMA Meeting - Washington, D.C.	George DeWolf
10	2nd. Quarter Report - Deadline - Helena	District Reps.
22-24	Exercise Design Course - Havre	Kate Selby
30	Lewis & Clark Co. Full Scale Exercise - Helena	Paul Spengler
May 1	Newsletter Published	Mary Arnold-Braun
9	District 1 - MDES Meeting - Missoula	Earl Wahl
13-16	Radiological Response Team - Bozeman	Dan Lieberg

19TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

Plans are progressing on the 19th Annual Governor's Conference. Both Governor Ted Schwinden and Lt. Governor George Turman will be in attendance. Lacy Suiter, the Immediate Past President of NEMA, will address what has happened with the FEMA budget and what the future holds for us.

There will be a tour of the Grant Kohrs Ranch and the old prison for interested spouses and invited guests. Lunch will be served for the group at Scharf's Restaurant. A bus for the tour has been arranged for by Powell County. Details for the tour and sign-up will be handled at the registration tables Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Our sincere thanks to Tom and Kay Beck and Earl and Ramona Wahl for lining up the tour.

- Chris Christensen -

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QUAKES

The Mexico City quakes and the numerous quakes near West Yellowstone have generated an increased interest in earthquake preparedness. In a recent conversation with American Red Cross officials, they mentioned that they have two slide-tape presentations called "Employee Earthquake Preparedness" and "Earthquake - You Can Survive." They run 14 minutes and 9½ minutes respectively, and target business, city, county and state employees, and the general public for home survival skills.

ARC training courses on disaster preparedness can supplement local programs and should not be overlooked. If interested in the above mentioned presentations, contact your local ARC representative or John Shelburne, Field Service Chairman at 248-7762.

- Jan Henry -

JEFFERSON COUNTY DESIGNATED DROUGHT AREA

On January 9, 1986, John R. Block, Secretary, U. S. Department of agriculture, notified Governor Ted Schwinden that Jefferson County had been designated a primary drought disaster area. This designation makes farmers, ranchers and businesses in all fifty-six counties in Montana eligible for either Farmers Home Administration Emergency Loan Assistance or Small Business Administration Economic Injury Loans.

- James Anderson -

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COMING SOON BY MAIL

Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators will soon be receiving a listing of emergency management oriented video tapes. These video tapes will be available on a loan basis from the State office. These tapes are a great resource for local public awareness, education, and training endeavors in the field of emergency management.

- Kate Selby -

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

An Emergency Management Workshop will be held in conjunction with the Governor's Conference. The workshop will address many issues pertinent to Emergency Management.

Mr. Tim Murphy of the Department of State Lands and Chief Bruce Suenram of the Missoula Rural Fire Department will make a presentation on the Incident Command System (ICS). The Standards Committee chaired by Mr. Dick Morgan will present their findings for review. District Highlights and State Highlights will round out the workshop on Friday morning.

- Chris Christensen -

DOWN THE ROAD . . .

The Introduction to Emergency Management Course (Bozeman, March 10-14) and the Emergency Planning Course (Helena, June 9-13) are quickly approaching the cut-off point for acceptance of student applications. Now is the time to submit your application if you planned to attend either of these two Courses.

AND KEEP IN MIND . . .

Applications are also being accepted for the following courses:

Emergency Planning Course Feb 10-14
Rapid City, South Dakota

Radiological Response Team March 10-14
Course
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Effective Communications/ March 10-14
Formulating Public Policy
Salt Lake City, Utah

Emergency Planning Course April 21-25
Bismarck, North Dakota

Radiological Response Team May 13-16
Bozeman, Montana

Shelter Systems Officer May 19-23
Course
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Radiological Response Team June 23-27
Course

- Kate Selby -

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Exercise After-Action Report forms are designed to assist Disaster & Emergency Services (DES) Coordinators in meeting quarterly reporting requirements for local EMA programs. The forms may be obtained from DES District Representatives or the Montana DES Office in Helena.

- Kate Selby -

INTERSTATE MUTUAL AID

The 1985 Legislature passed HB 302 revising MCA, Title 10, Chapter 3, Parts 205, 206 and 207, Interstate Mutual Aid Compacts. Since that time, our office has been working towards implementing a Compact with the States of Idaho and Washington. The final paperwork has been completed, and we expect that agreements between Montana and Washington will be concluded by February.

The Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services has introduced an identical version of our law to their legislature which meets in January. If their legislature passes a substantially similar version of our law, we should not have any major problem executing a compact with them by April or May 1986.

To our knowledge, a tri-state compact would be the first of its kind. These compacts would allow individual states access to a much larger resource base in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

- Jan Henry -

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The Exercise Design Course has been rescheduled for April 22 - 24 in Havre, Montana. This postponement was necessary, due to the delay in approval of the Federal budget. The budget has now been approved and it's full-steam ahead for emergency management training.

Those who originally applied for the December Exercise Design Course should notify Kate Selby, Exercise Training Officer by phone or letter if they plan to attend the April offering of this Course. Those who did not submit applications for the December Course, but would like to attend in April should get their application in. Again, we encourage you to attend this Course with several members of your community who hold emergency management-related positions.

- Kate Selby -

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM DISTRICT 1

- The Ravalli County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated October 8 to coordinate search operations for an aircraft which crashed.
- Approximately sixty persons representing all districts attended the Bomb and Explosive School sponsored by DES coordinators from District 1. The school was held in Butte October 29-30.
- Construction of the Jefferson and Flathead Counties EOC's is preceeding on schedule.
- Most district one coordinators have either recently updated or are working on compilation of disaster resource lists. Counties are encouraged to trade resource lists, especially with neighboring counties.
- Missoula County has recently put together evacuation kits (signs, registration forms, procedures, etc.) to help control access to evacuated areas and to keep track of evacuees.
- Flathead County is studying installation of a 911 system.
- Areas needing most work are involvement of agency heads and representatives in exercising and updating of plans.
- Thanks to years of persistence, primarily by Dick Giffin, Lake Co. Coordinator, the county will soon install a generator for the EOC and a helicopter landing pad at the hospital in Polson.
- Think now about spring flooding. Are policies and procedures in place for evacuation, acquisition of sandbags, declaration of emergencies and disasters, etc.?

- Several hundred gallons of aviation fuel (DOT #1863) were spilled on Highway 200 in Sanders County Oct. 23. No major problems encountered according to DES Coordinator, Ernie Sanks.

- Several counties are using or plan soon to begin using computers for various aspects of emergency/disaster planning, especially for compilation of resource lists. More on this later.

- Agenda Items for the January 10 District 1 coordinators meeting include local program standards, frequency coordination between military aircraft and local medical facilities, retention of State DES field representatives, and use of local coordinators to provide assistance in disasters or emergencies occurring outside their own jurisdictions.

- Bill Thomas -

HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY

DISTRICT II HIGHLIGHTS

Carl King (Blaine County) spent a few days in the hospital (high blood pressure) and it appears they now have it under control. We are wishing him well. Carl also reports that Barbara Kolar (353-2513) of Harlem has become very proficient at conducting and also assisting with EMS table-top exercises. She is willing to share her expertise if anyone desires her help, feel free to contact her. She completed the FEMA sponsored Exercise Design Course.

The Great Falls Amateur Radio Club (RACES) will hold its January meeting at Bill Murray's shop to familiarize them with the mobile EOC and to plan manning capabilities.

Helen and Ev (Pondera Co.) really enjoyed their trip to Scotland. When they got to the airport to check their luggage in for departure, the airline would not allow them to check one box on board as it weighed 230 lbs, so I had to stay home.

The National Weather Service has been working very close with Amateur Radio to increase capabilities during emergencies/disasters. An exercise has been scheduled for March 3 during which NWS Montana will simulate loss of all communications and AR will relay the actual state forecast to the Idaho State Office in Boise, ID to be entered into the computer.

Sheriff Vern Anderson, Toole County, received a call from AMTRAK with inquiries such as: Do you have a bomb squad? Do you have the equipment to handle a bomb? etc.; after which they informed him that a train would arrive shortly and there was a bomb reported to be on board.

As he hung up the telephone, he looked over at the station and lo and behold there sat the eastbound train with all kinds of people pouring off and headed for his office. During the ensuing confusion, everyone was asking "What do we do now, Sheriff?"

He finally convinced them to back the train out of town and started a search of the passengers hand luggage (which proved quite interesting). Then with the help of an Air Force dog, they commenced a search of the train.

After many hours and much sweat (both from work and worry), the train and all but one passenger (with his luggage) went their merry way. (The bomb threat was a hoax. ed.)

Vern says that the next time they will be ready. Hats off to Sheriff Anderson, his men and all the other personnel who helped.

- Chuck McCombs -

DISTRICT III HIGHLIGHTS

The first quarter of FY86 has been a busy and productive one. All counties have completed the HICA/MYDP booklets before the deadline. All counties have received the Standard Assurances.

Broadwater County has made great strides in preparedness under the direction of Ray Doggett, DES Coordinator. The Broadwater County EOC has been remodeled and a new diesel generator installed. This project was partially funded by a grant from FEMA. County communications have been upgraded to high-band and include complete dispatch capabilities in the EOC. The communication project was also partially funded by FEMA. Ray was able to procure some dividers very cheaply, which provided separation between the EOC dispatch and the operations area.

Ray initiated a meeting with school officials which began the process of instituting safety and hazard awareness activities within the schools. School officials are evaluating the use of the "Your Chance to Live" series, an internal earthquake survey of non-structural hazards, and distribution of general safety information provided through Ray. As a result of these activities, Ray has found it difficult to maintain a supply of pamphlets and other materials. The local populace is snatching them up as soon as they become available. Two events have helped Ray in his efforts to stimulate awareness of preparedness for natural and man-made hazards: the earthquake activity in Yellowstone Park and the sulphuric acid spill near town. These events opened up the eyes of local residents to their vulnerability to these types of events. The final and possibly most important aspect of the program success in Broadwater is the tremendous support of the Board of Commissioners. They have not hesitated to provide Ray with the necessary funding and equipment to upgrade the DES

- CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE -

- Dick Morgan -

DISTRICT FOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Sheridan County Coordinator Dennis Paulbeck has been busy completing several projects. Three new sirens and related controls have been added to the county warning system, two at Medicine Lake and one at Westby. These sirens are manually controlled at the sites and radio controlled by the Sheridan County central dispatch, and are tied directly to the Hewlett Packard/Motorola computer controlled warning and alarm system installed in the EOC.

These two projects represent a sizable budget for Sheridan County. However, they are just two of many projects this county is working on. If you have any questions contact Dennis Paulbeck.

Glen Kapitske is now at the V.A. Hospital in Miles City, still in a back brace and working hard to regain the use of his lower limbs. He sends his hello to everyone. I know Glen appreciates calls and cards and people stopping to visit. He hopes that by the time this is printed, to have expanded his physical therapy to allow some walking with assistance. We all should extend our best wishes to Glen and his family.

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The tragedy in Bhopal, India over a year ago and several potentially lethal releases in the United States have made people in the U.S. aware of the possibility of serious chemical accidents and the need for local communities to prepare to deal with chemicals that can cause death or serious injury if an accidental release occurs. This concern has prompted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide the public, state and local officials with information to assist them in planning to respond to accidental release of acutely toxic chemicals. The information EPA is providing describes general guidelines for developing community contingency plans which specifically address release into the air of acutely toxic chemicals. EPA's list of 379 acutely toxic chemicals is also included in the guidance.

- Dan Lieberg -

NEWS FROM THE COUNTIES *

* The following article was written in response to a request for more information about the Fort Peck Dam Exercise held July 22-23, 1985.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY/FT PECK DAM EXERCISE REPORT

Throughout the course of setting up the Fort Peck Dam Exercise numerous news articles were published in the local newspapers. Due to these news articles, we received many inquiries about: The Dam (how long would it take the water to reach areas in Roosevelt County, etc...?), the Exercise (how involved was Roosevelt County planning to get, what should the citizens do, etc..?); and the County DES Office (what role did the office play in specific types of emergencies?).

Upon evaluating the actions taken during the Exercise, we became aware of changes that need to be implemented; Our Roosevelt County Emergency Plan needs to be rewritten. An alternate or mobile EOC would be beneficial to Roosevelt County (in the event of an actual flood, our EOC would be under water). Evacuation routes need to be established and the public needs to be made aware of those routes.

When preparing to conduct another exercise, it would be helpful to set up the Exercise Committee and designate what role each person would play before the exercise is developed, at this time the Players should also be chosen. This was one of the last details done for the Fort Peck Exercise, due to this some changes had to be made in our exercise.

During the actual exercise we became aware of problems that, when corrected, will help the next exercise. Message and Resources Used Logs should be kept in numerical order. Maps that show Roosevelt County plus the surrounding area (other counties) would be helpful in many ways. Canned press releases would make the Public Affairs Officer's job go more smoothly. To speed up the logging of the Messages and Resources Used a new system needs to be developed.

Besides a few standard problems our Exercise went very well. Most of the problems we had can be overcome with more practice/training in the different areas. We also became aware that the decision makers in our County were not sure what responsibilities were theirs. Since the exercise, no attempt has been made to follow-up on the city or county levels. The County emergency management capabilities have not been increased, but the awareness of what is needed by officials has been discussed.

If more officials throughout the County had access to the Exercise Design course, designing and implementing an exercise would not be as complicated. A lot of our time was spent on understanding how an exercise is to be set up and run, those who had taken the Exercise Design Course were initially more aware of what was expected and needed to conduct an exercise.

- Courtesy of the Roosevelt Co.
Exercise Team -

225 Copies of the October issue of the Montana DES Newsletter were printed at a total cost of \$240.40. Mailing costs were \$58.50, for a total of \$1.33 per copy.

COMPUTERS

The Montana State DES Office has finally moved into the computer age with the purchase of four microcomputers. Acting on recommendations from a study, done by the Information systems Division of the Department of Administration, DES chose equipment available under the State Purchase Contract. The hardware includes:

- 4 Central Processing Units (the "thinking" part of the computer) with hard disk drives;
- 4 Monochrome (green on black) monitors;
- 2 Dot Matrix Printers; and
- 2 Letter Quality Printers.

The software (programs that make the whole thing work) packages are:

Work Perfect 4.1 (the newest version);

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 2;

Cross Talk XVI - a package that lets one computer "talk" to another; and

Friendlyware - A series of game tutorials that teach skills and increase familiarity with computer operation.

There have been several problems with this fancy new equipment. But, most of them stem from an error in the hard disk operating system. Now that the hard disks have been reprogrammed with a compatible operating system, they seem to work just fine.

In the near future, there will be a modem (a device that takes computerized information and sends it through telephone lines, then converts it so a computer can "read" it) attached to one of the units, then you may talk to the State Office through your computer terminal.

- Mary Arnold-Braun -

This is your newsletter, please send us articles of interest to all.

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SHELTER NEWS

The first Quarter of fiscal year 1986 (October thru December) was rough with a lot of problems that reflect on the inability of providing operational funds from the federal government.

Much of the month of October was spent in the Anaconda (Deer Lodge Co) area doing survey work on many schools. Excellent cooperation was received from Buzzy Peterson, D.E.S. Coordinator and Mary Jo Oreskovich, Superintendent of Schools. We hope to complete our work in Deer Lodge County in late January, 1986.

Some work was done in Jefferson county where we could accomplish our work with day travel only, but this also was curtailed in early December to conserve dwindling funds. Survey will be back on track about late January with work in the City of Great Falls with Hal Million, D.E.S. Coordinator.

Most of the fiscal 1985 work was expended on earthquake analysis as well as fallout and reception and care. This process is more time consuming, but also produces a greater amount of shelter spaces.

Computer data generated by the shelter survey has been slow in returning from the National Computer Center, but we hope to show you some results by mid-1986.

Although the last year was spent mostly on earthquake analysis, as we move east in the state we will encounter other structural hazards such as high wind, tornado and flood.

- Donald Sinnott-

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS SLIDES

Recently, we received copies of the several slide-tape presentations. They were developed by the Southern California Earthquake Preparedness Project (SCEPP), but are generic in nature and suitable for the Montana situation. The presentations include:

- "The Planning Process: Preparedness Planning in Earthquake Country"
- "The Earthquake Threat: Living in Apartments"
- "Earthquake Preparedness in High-Rise Office Buildings"
- Earthquake Preparedness in Mobile Home Communities"

If you are interested in any of these slides, contact Marlys to check them out.

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COMMUNICATIONS

The Spring WARNEX Exercise is rapidly approaching. At this time, I do not have a firm date or time, but hopefully, it will not coincide with the Governor's Conference.

Now would be a good time to review your local warning plans with the personnel that man your designated warning points. I recently taught a one-hour class at the dispatchers course in Bozeman. Many of the dispatchers did not fully understand their warning fan-out responsibilities, nor did they know what "checkerboard" meant. Some (gasp) did not know who their local DES coordinator is or what he/she does.

Activation of the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) is not usually done in conjunction with the Spring WARNEX. This is not to say you cannot activate your local EBS. All you need is the cooperation of your local broadcasters. The more you work with the broadcasters and show interest in EBS, the better EBS can work for you when you really need it.

- Homer Young -

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Please welcome Roosevelt Countys new Coordinator, Dan Seitsema who will work full-time for Roosevelt County spending his hours equally between DES planning and radio system repair and maintenance. I am sure Dan will be an asset to Roosevelt County.

Dan and his wife have four children ages from 1 year to 11 years old. Dan is a naval veteran and is active in the Guard and a member of the Jaycees. His hobbies are woodworking, volleyball, softball and bowling. He indicates that he is anticipating the challenge of his new employment.

One new coordinator has been appointed in Meagher County. He is Charles (Chuck) Comp, Sheriff of Meagher County. Chuck has a background in law enforcement and emergency management in California. He was in Berkeley during the sixties, so he has a lot of experience.

"RIGHT TO KNOW LAW"

On November 25, 1985, the "Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act" (Right to Know Law) became effective. This law was passed by the 1985 Montana Legislature with the intention of enhancing worker and community safety by requiring employers, including county, city and state government agencies, to make information available on the potential hazards and safe handling of chemicals in the workplace. What this means to emergency management and response organizations is that we now have access to information on hazardous chemicals used, stored or produced in most workplaces in all jurisdictions.

The Environmental Quality Council has developed and provided an information package on the "Employee and Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act." If you wish to review the information that was provided in the packet, a copy can be had at all offices of the Clerk and Records.

- Dan Lieberg -

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Feb. 1986

Disaster & Emergency Services
P.O. Box 4789
Helena, MT 59604

FIRST CLASS

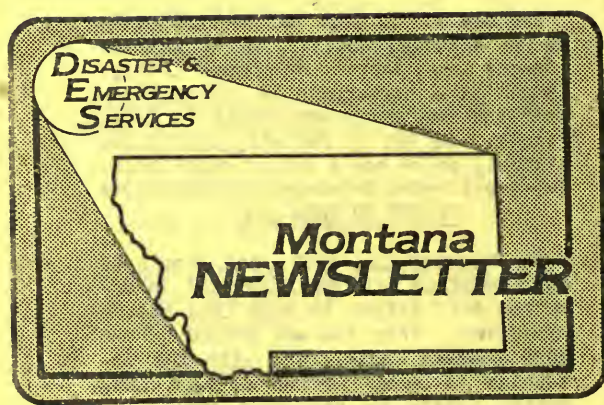


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TED SCHWINDEN
GOVERNOR

JAMES W. DUFFY
ADJUTANT GENERAL

GEORGE M. DeWOLF
ADMINISTRATOR

The articles in this newsletter do
not constitute official policy.

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EQUIPMENT WANTED

- Lake County is looking for a dependable vehicle to transport their "Jaws of Life." Vehicle needs to be about the size of a small pick-up and capable of traveling 50-60 mph. Contact Dick Giffin, DES Coordinator at 883-4345.
- The Lewis and Clark Co. Sheriff's Office is looking for a water trailer, no size specifications. If you have one to sell or trade, contact Dick Hammerbacker at 443-1010, Ext. 245.

DO-IT-YOURSELF VHF ANTENNA

The State DES Office recently received detailed plans for the construction of a VHF antenna for portable or handheld radios.

Designed by Julio Ripoll, the antenna is suitable for the RACES two meter band 144-148 MHz. If you would like a copy of these plans, contact Homer Young.